

in 1993. Of course, at that time he was a Democrat, but I don't hold it against him. He eventually realized the error of his ways and was reelected as a Republican in 1997. He became the most popular and well known mayor in Minnesota, mostly because he shared something in common with Minnesotans: a love of hockey.

In 1993, the Minnesota North Stars became the Dallas Stars, leaving the State of Minnesota without a franchise in the National Hockey League. Norm shared the view of probably every Minnesotan that this was just not right. Honestly, how can you have an NHL without a team in Minnesota? Due in large part to Mayor Coleman's lobbying efforts the NHL awarded St. Paul an expansion franchise in 1997, the Minnesota Wild.

You would think that bringing hockey back to Minnesota would be enough to get him elected to any office he wanted in the state. But, as many have observed, the people of Minnesota are unpredictable. In the 1998 gubernatorial election, in a race that grabbed the attention of many people throughout the country, Norm finished just 3 percentage points behind Jesse Ventura, whose preGovernor career was, to put it lightly, a colorful one.

Though this result had to be difficult for Norm, I think we all ultimately benefited from the outcome of that race. Norm was elected to the Senate in 2002 and immediately became known for his thoughtful demeanor and his dedication to the people of Minnesota. He was a loyal Republican, but he was also willing to work with those in the opposing party to help the State of Minnesota and the Nation as a whole. He supported President Bush, but, as should be expected of any loyal supporter, he was not afraid to express his disagreement or offer his advice with regard to changes and reforms. Indeed, I think Republicans and Democrats alike have had a good working relationship with Senator Coleman because, as many have noted here today, he was more concerned with getting things done and being true to his convictions than he was about being political and towing the party line.

Mr. President, while I welcome Senator Coleman's successor, I must admit that I was disappointed when I heard of the final decision of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Obviously, I don't like seeing the number of Republicans in the Chamber go down. But, more importantly, I am sad to see the Senate lose such a vibrant and intelligent voice. Indeed, I think his views and statements on the legislation being considered by the Senate this year would add greatly to the debate.

I want to wish Senator Coleman the best of luck in his future endeavors. While I am sure that he will be a valuable asset for any effort with which he becomes involved, I am more certain that he will be missed here in the Senate.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition today to congratulate and recognize a tremendous asset to the children of Philadelphia, PA, the United States, and really the world—the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The hospital, or CHOP as it is known, has been ranked first in children's cancer, diabetes and endocrine disorders, neonatal care, respiratory disorders and urology care by U.S. News & World Report. I congratulate the hospital's president and chief executive officer, Dr. Steven Altschuler, and his team of over 10,000 employees for this tremendous accomplishment.

CHOP was the Nation's first established children's hospital, growing from its original structure with 12 beds on Philadelphia's Watts Street to a sprawling campus in West Philadelphia with over 40 outpatient locations throughout southeast Pennsylvania and New Jersey, providing care to over 1 million patients last year.

CHOP notably provides the highest level of pediatric care and conducts groundbreaking research through funding from the National Institutes of Health. When I came to the Senate in 1981, funding for the NIH totaled \$3.6 billion. Since becoming LHHS Chairman in 1996, Senator HARKIN and I have successfully worked to more than double NIH funding, which was \$12.7 billion at that time. In the fiscal year 2009 Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee bill, we provided \$30.2 billion for NIH funding, a \$1 billion increase from fiscal year 2008. We also secured an additional \$10 billion in funding through an amendment to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I recently visited CHOP for a townhall meeting and was able to see firsthand some major discoveries that have occurred there as a result of NIH-funded research.

In a conversation with Dr. Philip Johnson, the director of CHOP's Research Institute, I learned about an experimental therapy developed at CHOP using elements of the body's immune system to improve cure rates for children with neuroblastoma, a challenging cancer of the nervous system. This type of cancer is very aggressive, causing 15 percent of all childhood cancer deaths. I am told that patients who received this therapy were 20 percent more likely to live disease-free two years after treatment. Shortly after visiting CHOP, I also learned of a study led by Dr. Johnson that could lead to an HIV vaccine, by inserting a gene into the muscle that can cause it to produce protective antibodies. AIDS is one of the most devastating pandemics, having killed more than 25 million people. Such a vaccine appears years away from realization; however, with continued investment from the NIH, it is possible that this work could save millions of lives.

I have fought and will continue to fight for increased funding for the NIH

because medical research saves and improves lives. The medical research at CHOP, through federally funded NIH support, provides children with a real chance to be cured so that they may continue to grow and prosper.

As we continue the debate around health reform, it is important that we recognize the unique needs of children. As I stated, CHOP served over 1 million patients last year. When it opened in 1855, it treated just 63 patients in its first year. Clearly the demand for highly specialized, pediatric care is growing not only in Pennsylvania but throughout the United States; however, there are shortages in the number of pediatric specialists able to treat children with very particular needs. That is why it is important to support programs, such as the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program, to help children's hospitals train future pediatricians. I have supported ample funding for this program because it helps address a national dilemma and provides children's hospitals with the resources they need to foster innovation and improve quality.

Mr. President, the accomplishments seen at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are unique and revolutionary. I am proud of CHOP for their efforts to improve children's health care and promote health and wellness.

MOLDOVA'S UPCOMING ELECTION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the Republic of Moldova holds repeated parliamentary elections on July 29, after previous elections on April 5 this year were followed by youth protests to display their lack of trust in the electoral process. These protests turned violent and led to arrests of hundreds of protesters, their severe beatings, and inhumane treatment while in police custody. Even an independent member of Parliament, Valentina Cusnir, was abused and beaten by police, suffering injuries. Three young men have died, and the cause of death is reported to be injuries from the beatings they received. Foreign journalists were expelled and local reporters were arrested and intimidated, their equipment was confiscated. The parliamentary opposition parties, which accused the Communist Party in power of election fraud, have boycotted elections of the new President that, ultimately, triggered repeated elections. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe stated that Moldova's recent elections had "shortcomings that challenged some OSCE commitments, in particular the disregard for due process in adjudicating complaints of alleged irregularities and deficiencies in the compilation of voter lists lodged by opposition political parties."

On July 29, the Government of Moldova has another chance to show her citizens and the international community that it remains committed to